



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Casey Gwinn, City Attorney, (619) 533-5640 or (619) 235-5725

A CHILD WHO LIVES WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

San Diego, CA —On Friday, February 16, 2001 at 1:00 P.M., at the Marriott Hotel & Marina, the Bunny Bag project will be introduced to San Diego as part of the American Bar Association's Midyear Meeting. As a coordinated effort between the ABA and the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, comforting and educational items were gathered and thousands of Bunny Bags were assembled by children for children.

Children living in abusive homes do not have to be physically assaulted to be abused. The daily routine of watching the adults in their homes physically and verbally attack one another leaves a lifetime of scars and a blueprint for unacceptable behavior. The Bunny Bags will be made available to children to help them cope with turmoil. Law enforcement officers, crisis response team members, shelters and hospitals will be able to provide the bags to children. "When the yelling starts, go to a safe place." Could your child draw a "safe place?"

San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn reports, "National studies tell us that between 50 and 75 percent of the men who batter their wives or female partners also abuse their children. The Bunny Bags contain a coloring book to help children understand that domestic violence is not their fault and it is not OK. I am pleased that San Diego is the first city in the country to introduce this innovative tool to protect the youngest victims of domestic violence."